



Lincoln's first address wasn't Gettysburg



Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States, was born February 12, 1809, near Hodgenville, Ky. Five months before receiving his party's nomination for President, Lincoln wrote this brief autobiography:



"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families--second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks... My father... removed from Kentucky to... Indiana, in my eighth year... It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.... Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher ... but that was all."



The Lincolns left the commonwealth when Abraham was still a boy, but Kentucky continued to play an important role throughout his life. The sites along the Lincoln trail, including the few listed below, highlight the key people, places and events that firmly established Lincoln as a Kentuckian.



- [Lincoln Museum, Hodgenville](#)
- [Mary Todd Lincoln House, Lexington](#)
- [Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate, Lexington](#)
- [Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, Nicholasville](#)

The eyes of the nation will be on Kentucky as we celebrate the life and legacy of this great man during the national [inaugural event](#) for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial



Commemoration. The kick-off will take place on February 12, 2008, at the [Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site](#) in Hodgenville. For more information on Lincoln Bicentennial events, visit the [Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission](#) web site. Noted Lincoln historian William E. Barton aptly remarked of the relationship between Kentucky and Lincoln saying, "She was his mother, and gave him to the world."

Things to Do



Civil War



Museums

Destination Spotlight: Louisville

On February 11, 2008, a day before the official kick-off ceremony, [Louisville](#) will share in the excitement of the Lincoln Bicentennial with a day-long celebration and gala event to be held at the [Kentucky Center for Performing Arts](#). The event includes a Lincoln on Leadership Symposium, a champagne reception and a Celebration of Lincoln program.

While you are in Louisville, be sure to stop by [Farmington Historic Home](#) where President Lincoln spent time visiting the Speed family in 1841. From February 2008-2010 the plantation will feature a special exhibit focusing on Lincoln's important connections to the Speed family at Farmington and the consequences of his visit for the family. Also, the [Louisville Free Public Library](#) is presenting the [Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation](#) exhibit through February 14, 2008. The exhibit focuses on Lincoln's life and the events and challenges leading up to the Emancipation Proclamation, and highlights the role of African American soldiers during the Civil War.

For more information about the endless possibilities in Louisville, visit www.gotolouisville.com.

Destination Spotlight: Bardstown

[Bardstown](#), which played an important role in Civil War history, is home to the [Civil War Museum of the Western Theatre](#), one of the four most important Civil War museums in the country. It was the first to have a museum dedicated to the women of the Civil War.

Just a short trip from Bardstown is the [Lincoln Homestead State Park](#), which features the original home of Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, as well as replicas of the 1782 cabin and blacksmith shop where his father, Thomas Lincoln, was reared and learned his trade. You'll also find the home of Mordecai Lincoln, the favorite uncle of the President, along with split-rail fences and pioneer furniture that portray the rugged pioneer life.

Bardstown also has much to offer besides its Civil War heritage: from [My Old Kentucky Home State Park](#) to [Stephen Foster - The Musical](#), where Summer 2008 will mark the musical's 50th season.

Come discover Bardstown's spirit of history. For more information, visit www.visitbardstown.com/tourism/.



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Capital Plaza Tower 22nd Floor, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601 | 1-800-225-8747